(c)the per-capita investment by commercial banks in Orissa as against the national average by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):(a) and (b). The Branch Licensing Policy for 1985 -90 of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had required the achievement of a target of 17,000 population (1981 census) per bank office in rural and semi-urban areas of each development block in the country including Orissa. The average population of per bank office of the State of Orissa as a whole was 13,540 and in rural/semi-urban areas it was 14,520 as at the end of March, 1990. RBI had allotted a total of 388 centres to the commercial banks for the above period. Till date 354 centres have been utilised by the commercial banks. The validity of the pending licences has been extended by RBI till 31st March, 1992.

(c) The per capita deployment of gross bank credit by all scheduled commercial banks(based on 1981 census) in Orissa vis-a-vis the national average as at the end of March, 1989 was Rs.638 and Rs.1403 respectively.

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Development of Sericulture in Kerala

5894. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any facilities have been provided by the Union Government to encourage sericulture in Kerala;

(b) if so, since when and the details of assistance given by the Union Government to the State Government till date; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES: (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). Since 1987 -88, the Central Silk Board had provided the following types of assistance to the State Govt. of Kerala for development of sericulture in the State under its normal programmes/World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project:-

1. Supply of mulberry cuttings and saplings on subsidised cost.
2. Supply of disease free layings.
3. Establishment of Basic seed Farms, Grainages, Cocoon Markets, Sericulture Training Schools, Demonstration cum Training Centres, Reeling Units, Chawkie Centres and Technical Service Centres.
4. Organising study tour and training programme for farmers.
5. Extension of Technical guidance and marketing support.
6. Organising seminars and entrepreneur programming.

70 Assam

Pending Cases in Guwahati High Court

5895. DR.JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Guwahati High Court for more than ten years; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS:(SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARMANGALAM): (a) As on 30.6.1991, 237 cases were pending in Guwahati High Court for more than ten years.

(b) Various steps like grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of special benches, procedural improvements, etc. have been taken to expedite disposal of cases. The recommendations contained in the Arrears' Committee (Malimath Committee) report, which went into the problem of arrears in courts, have been forwarded to all concerned such as state Government, the Central Ministries and the High Courts including Guwahati High Courts for suitable follow-up action.

Balance Between Exports and Imports

5896. SHRI PRAKASH V.PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to have a balance between exports and imports;

(b) when the exports are like to equal or exceed the imports;

(c) how the foreign equity upto 51% will help in balancing the foreign trade;

(d) whether the companies with foreign investment are exporting more than the imports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Several changes in the trade policy have been introduced, which are aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. Essential imports of sensitive items such as POL and fertilizers were fully protected but other imports of raw materials and components have been linked to export performance. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument called Eximscrips. Eximscrips will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw-materials, components and spares. The categories of unlisted OGL has been abolished and these items are now importable only against Eximscrips. The system of Advance Licences as an instrument of export promotion has been strengthened.

(b) As a result of various initiatives taken by the Government for import compression and to boost exports, the trade deficit has already registered a decline from Rs.1876 crores in April-June,1990 to Rs. 1502 crores in April-June, 1991. It is difficult to definitely when the exports are likely to equal or exceed the imports as foreign trade depends on a number of global and domestic factors.

(c) It has been decided to provide approval for direct foreign investment upto 51% foreign equity in order to invite foreign investment in high priority industries requiring large investments and advanced technology, subject to the fulfilment of following conditions:

i) The foreign equity should cover the foreign exchange requirement for imported capital goods.

ii) The payment of dividends would be monitored through the Reserve Bank of India to ensure that outflows on account of dividend payments are balanced by export earnings over a period of time.

iii) The balancing of dividends would be over a period of 7 years from commencement of production.

iv) Remittance of dividends should be covered by earnings of the Company from export of items covered by Annex III to the Statement on Industrial Policy.